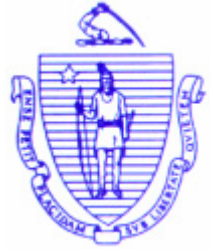




Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



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Marine Fisheries Advisory

**Public Invited to Kick-off Event for Herring Run Monitoring and
Education Projects Funded by the GE Foundation**

On Monday, October 4th, *Marine Fisheries* will participate in a kick-off event for herring run monitoring and education projects funded by the GE Foundation. The event, to be held at 10:30 at the Saugus Iron Works, will be coordinated by the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The Partnership is a public-private partnership between the federal government, state governments and private corporations to restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats. Other participants include the Urban Ecology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Gulf of Maine Institute, Mass Audubon, and DFG's Riverways Program.

Below is a release from the Partnership providing further details on the event, including directions and media contacts.



Media Contact: Susan Redlich
Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
(617) 287-5568
susan.redlich@state.ma.us

**Kick-off Event For Herring Run Monitoring and Education
Projects Funded by the GE Foundation**

Saugus. River herring advocates will venture to the edge of the Saugus River in Saugus today to get a preview of the volunteer fish monitoring that will take place next Spring when the herring return from the ocean to spawn in the upper reaches of the river. Thanks to a grant from the General Electric Foundation through the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, several organizations will initiate projects focused on research and education about migratory (anadromous) fish. John Craynon, environmental manager at the GE Transportation plant in Lynn, announced the \$45,000 award at a ceremony today at the Saugus Iron Works.

The Saugus River Watershed Council will train volunteers, including employees from the Elfun Volunteers organization at the GE plant in Lynn, to monitor migrating fish. When the fish start their migration up the Saugus River, volunteers will don waders and sort and count fish caught in nets set out by the Division of Marine Fisheries in cooperation with the Saugus River Iron Works. Director Paul Diodati of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) praised the corporate donation, saying that "the GE Foundation grant will help the DMF increase public awareness of the state's anadromous fish runs and increase the involvement of citizens in monitoring the conditions at fish passages." A portion of the award will be used to create a "Citizen's Guide to Fish Runs in Massachusetts" both in print and on the DMF website.

A major objective of the GE award is the creation of science curriculum available to teachers and students to learn about local migratory fish, primarily herring, their importance to fishing, and their relationship to local river ecosystems. According to Leah Deni, an educator at the Urban Ecology Institute (UEI) at Boston College, a field study unit on anadromous fish and their habitat is being developed by UEI for piloting next year by four urban schools. Two other environmental organizations, MassAudubon and the Gulf of Maine Institute will conduct educational activities for schools and community groups that want to get involved in the restoration of fish passages and aquatic habitat.

The Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site will benefit from the data collected by the volunteer monitors, as part of its research on river conditions before and after the planned improvement of a fish passage upstream of the National Park Service's museum. The Park Service plans to physically remove a restriction to migrating fish as part of a larger effort to restore the waterfront associated with the museum.

Although GE's \$45,000 environmental stewardship grant is being split among the several organizations, all the groups pledged to work together as partners, and share results of their individual projects. Seth Jaffe, of the law firm of Foley Hoag LLP and a board member of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, remarked, "The CWRP is, in this time of tight budgets at all levels of government, a critical example of a public-private partnership that works to match corporations that have funds or expertise to contribute to the protection, restoration, and study of wetlands and other aquatic habitat with projects that state, federal, and local organizations have deemed worthy of moving forward."

Contact information for organizations with activities benefiting from the GE Foundation Environmental Stewardship Award:

- Michael Armstrong
Program Manager - Recreational and Anadromous Fisheries
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel:(978)282-0308 ext. 109
- Leah Deni
Education Coordinator, Urban Ecology Institute
Boston College
355 Higgins Hall, 140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Tel: 617- 552-6842
- Joan LeBlanc, Director
Saugus River Watershed Council
P.O. Box 1092
Saugus Massachusetts 01906
Tel: 978-866-7284
- John Terry
Gulf of Maine Institute
Tel: 978-462-7911

For further information contact Susan Redlich (Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership), 617-287-5568; susan.redlich@umb.edu; Richard Gorham (GE Transportation), 781-594-4192, Richard.gorham@ae.ge.com; and Joan LeBlanc (River Herring Monitoring), 978-866-7284, srw@shore.net

Directions to Saugus Iron Works, National Park Service:

From Interstate 95 northbound or southbound take the Walnut Street exit, number 43. Drive east towards Lynn and follow the brown National Park Service signs for 3.5 miles to the Iron Works.

From Route 1 northbound take Main Street Saugus exit and follow the National Park Service signs east through Saugus Center to the Iron Works. **From Route 1 southbound** take the Walnut Street exit (East) and follow the National Park Service signs 1.5 miles to the Iron Works.